

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, DC 20230

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10:00 A.M. EDT TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015

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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products December 2014

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$3.2 billion (3.3 million** metric tons) compared to the preliminary November totals of \$3.2 billion (3.3 million metric tons).

The December change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected a slight decrease primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs; sheets and strips; and reinforcing bars. Increases occurred primarily in wire rods, plates in coils, and standard rails. Decreases occurred primarily with United Kingdom, Australia, and Korea. Increases occurred primarily with Russia, Germany, and Japan.

The year to date final statistics through November 2014 showed steel imports of 36.9 million metric tons compared with 26.9 million metric tons through November 2013. The largest commodity increases occurred primarily in blooms, billets and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and cold rolled sheets. Decreases occurred primarily in line pipe, hot rolled bars, and standard rails. The largest country increases occurred primarily with Russia, Korea, and China. Decreases occurred primarily with Argentina, Poland, and Thailand.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details, visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at www.census.gov/trade. On the website, you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is February 25, 2015.